upto Ninth standard and, secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the State.

Low cost housing to middle class and poor people

2160. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to chalk out any action plan for providing low cost housing for middle class and poor people by bringing new innovative technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government's recent decision of 100 per cent FDI in construction sector would benefit for low-cost housing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Building Materials Technologies Promotion Council, (BMTPC) an autonomous organization has been set up under the administrative control of this Ministry for a comprehensive and integrated approach towards development, promotion and application of conventional and innovative housing and construction technologies and building materials in the country. Some of the major initiatives to popularize and promote low cost housing are given below:

(i) Incorporation of low cost building technologies into the specifications of Central Public Works Department and State Housing and Building agencies and development of standards through Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to cover cost effective materials and construction technologies.

(ii) Strengthening of National Network of Building Centres for demonstration and extension of cost effective technologies and training of artisans in innovative low cost techniques at local levels. All materials and components produced at building Centres have been exempted by Government from levy of any excise duty.

(iii) support to research and development organizations for technology development organizations for technology development and transfer for field application.

(iv) Strengthening arrangements for large scale field applications of cost effective technologies and commercializing production of innovative low cost materials and components through BMTPC at national; and regional level and Building Centres at grass-root level.

(v) Providing fiscal incentives for production of cost effective building materials and import of critical machinery and equipments used for production of cost effective technologies and building components particularly based on industrial wastes like flyash, phosophogypsm and red mud.

(vi) Promotion of cost effective technologies in the housing schemes being funded by housing finance institutions like Housing and Urban Development Corporation, etc. In the financial year 2004-05 construction of demonstration houses using low cost housing techniques has been initiated by the BMTPC in 11 States of the country. The BMTPC has developed a number of technologies for low cost housing and several of these have been licensed to entrepreneurs for commercialisation. Similarly, the BMTPC has also developed a number of machines for production of cost effective prefab building components for low cost housing.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The decision is expected to catalyse investment in construction and development project as on instrument to generate economic activity, create new employment opportunities and add to the available housing stock and built-up infrastructure.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Urban Development.**

II. **Annual Accounts (1997-98 to 2000-2001) of Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi and related papers.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I lay on the Table:—